



28 | MAR 97

TIMES PAST

STAR MAN



**SUPERFREAKS &
BACKSTABBERS**

ROBINSON • HAMILTON • SNYDER

HARRIS '96

APPARENTLY...

...THE AMAZING
THING IS HOW
PEOPLE NEVER
QUESTION MY
SKIN. APPARENTLY.

IN THIS WORLD OF
FLYING POWER RING
RUNNING FAST AND
HAVING WINGS
AND CAPES AND
TINY SMALL...

...BLUE FLESH ISN'T THE...
EVENT...THAT I SUPPOSE
IT MIGHT BE.

THE AVERAGE WHITE
BAND IS PLAYING. HERE IN
THIS BATHROOM, I CAN'T
HEAR THE WORDS...CAN
SCARCE HEAR THE
MELODY.

BUT I
RECOGNIZE THE
BASSLINE.

FINDING...

HARD TO THINK THE
WAY I DID...DO...

LEARNING THE TONGUE OF
THIS WORLD...MY OWN...MY
THOUGHTS ARE...

SHATTERED
GLASS.

THE COCKTAIL OF THE
TWO ISN'T AS SWEET AS
THOSE MIXED HERE.



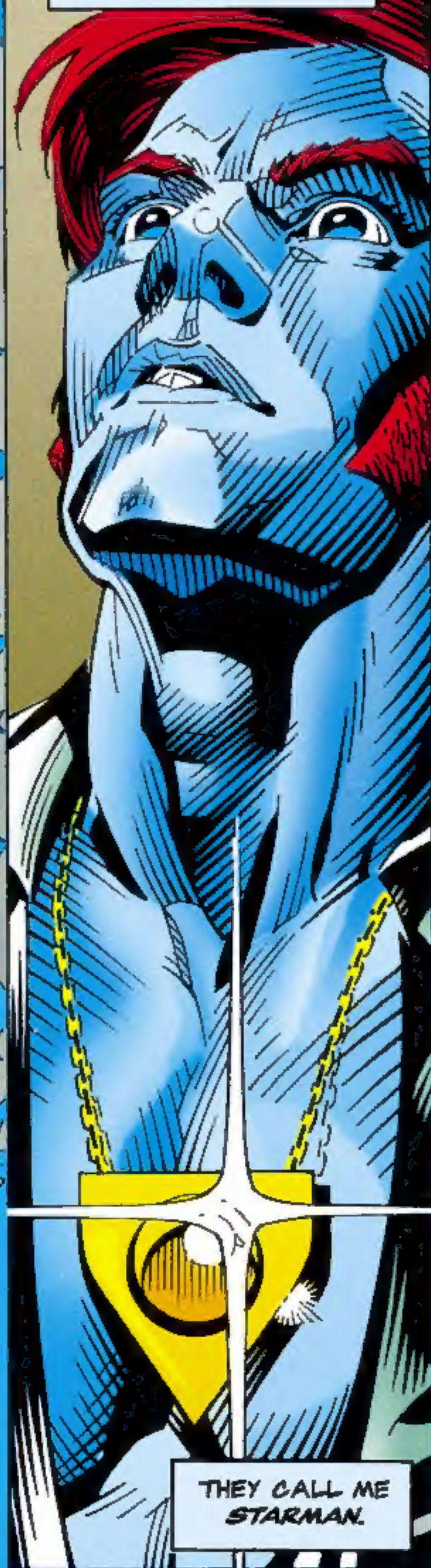
AND THERE ARE
THE POWDERS.
AND THE PILLS.

ALL MAKE
MY...

...HARD TO
THINK IN...

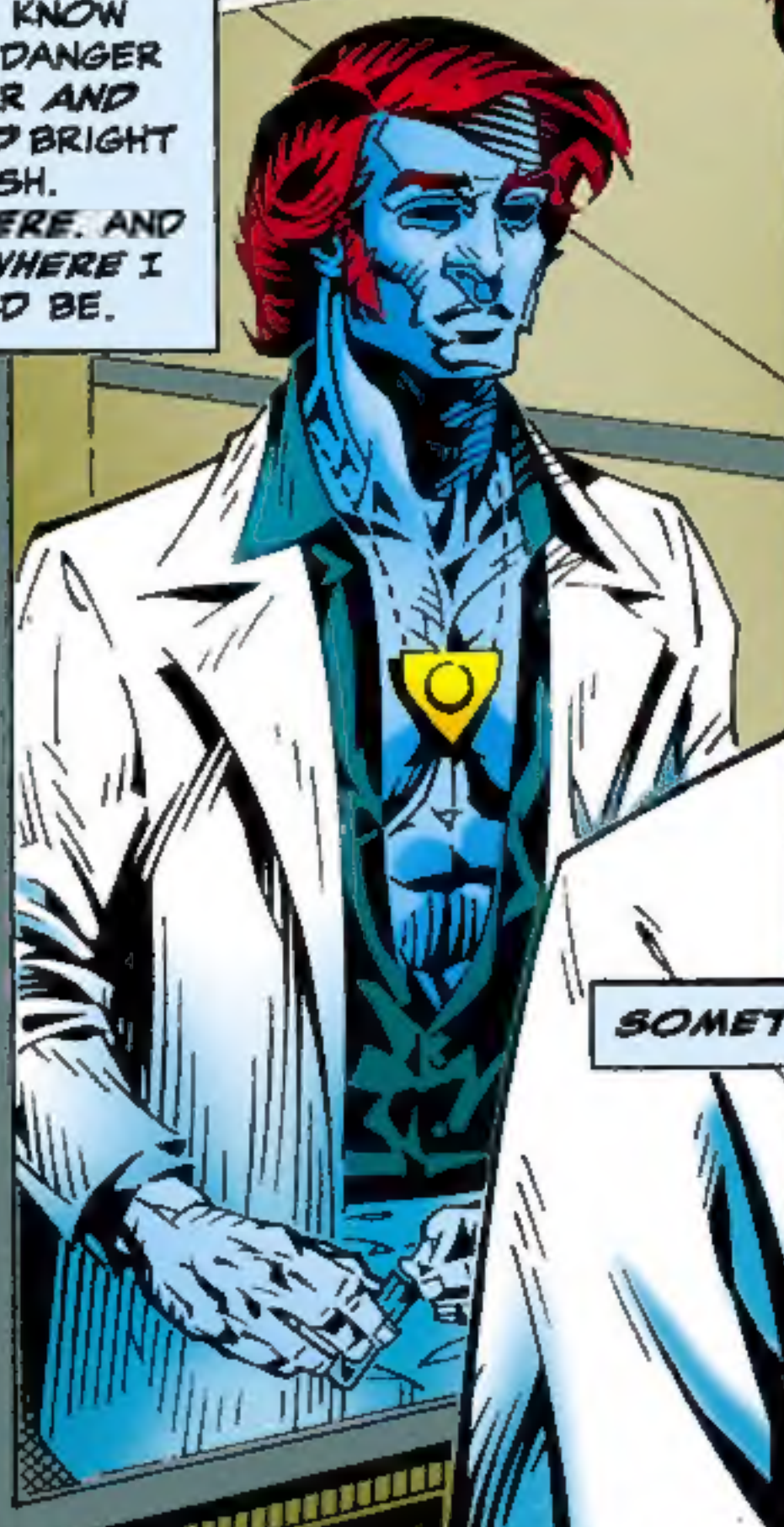
THERE WAS A SONG. A
MAN NAMED BOWIE SANG
IT. THE SONG'S NAME...MY
BLUE SKIN...PEOPLE CALL
ME...

...WHAT THEY DO...
BECAUSE OF THAT
SONG.



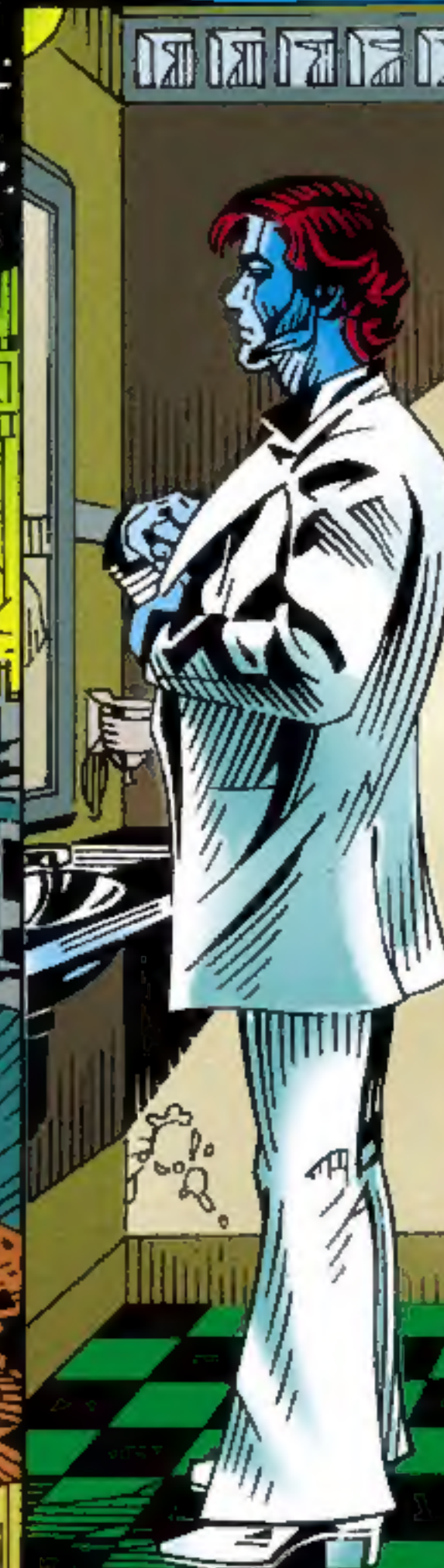
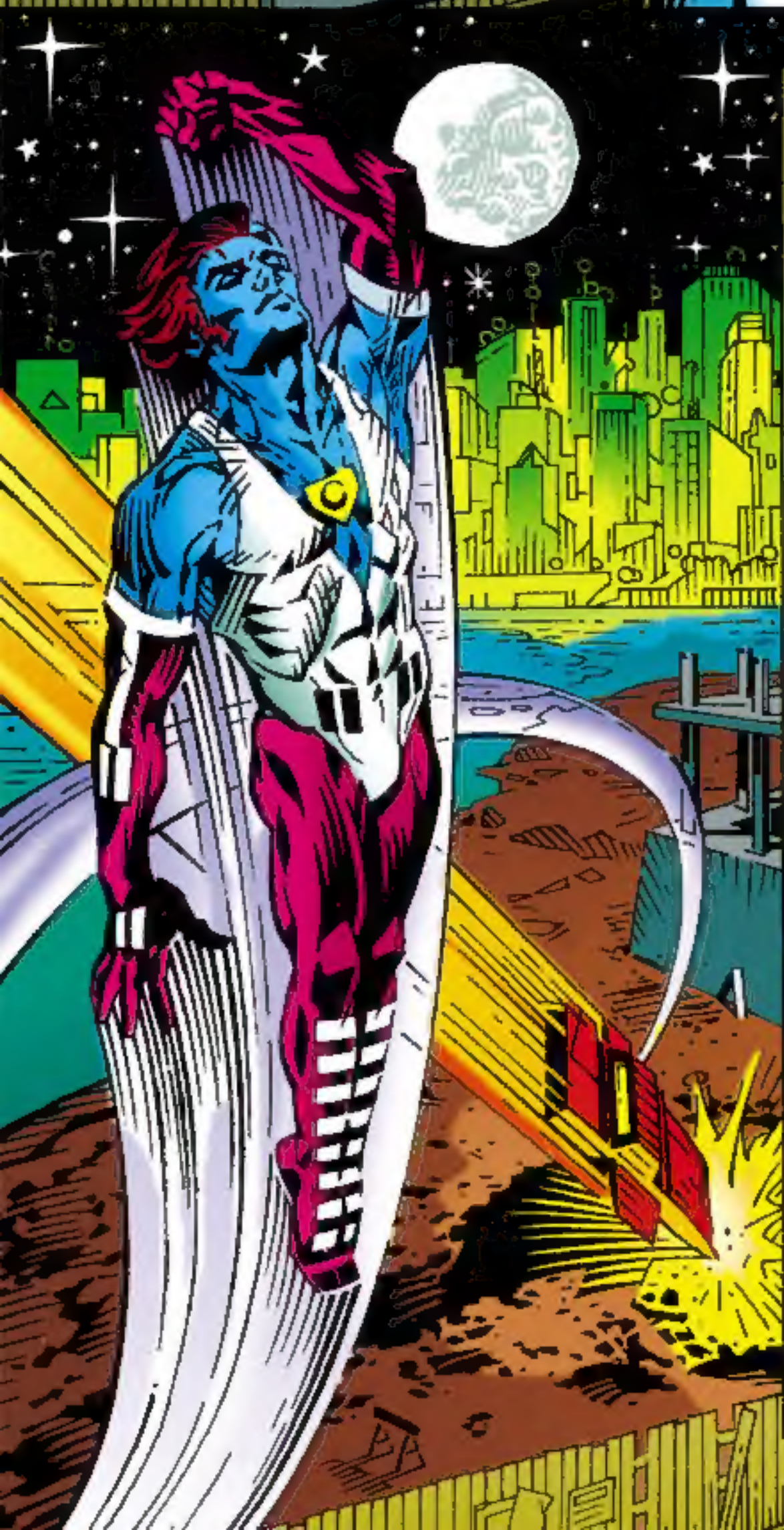
THEY CALL ME
STARMAN.

SOMETIMES IT'S
ALL SO CLEAR.
WHY I'M HERE. WHO
I AM. I KNOW
THERE'S DANGER
AND WAR AND
LOVE AND BRIGHT
FLASH.
SOMEWHERE. AND
THAT'S WHERE I
SHOULD BE.



SOMETIMES I...

BUT IT'S LIKE THE STROBELIGHT.
ON AND OFF...IN AND OUT OF MY
HEAD SO QUICKLY...TOO FAST
FLICKER SHARP CLEAN OUT AND
AWAY.



OR LUIS WILL SCORE
ME SOME POWDER, OR
DANI. OR RUTGER. ONE
OF MY FRIENDS. AND
THEN WHY WOULD I
WANT TO THINK ABOUT
ANYTHING BUT THAT.

STILL THE
STROBE...

...WITHIN ME...



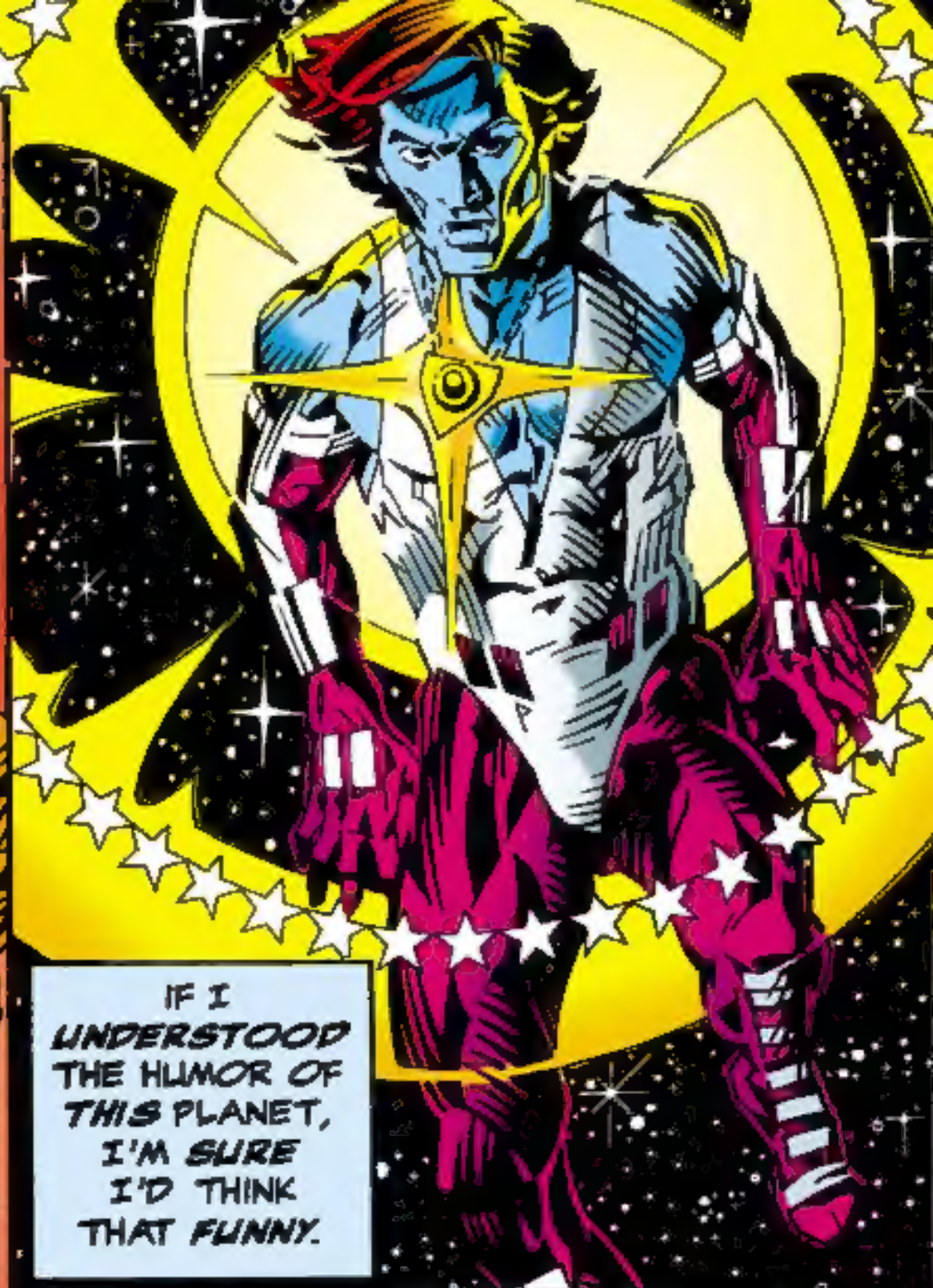
'BOLT TIME, MAN.
WHAT CHOO LOCK
THAT DOOR FOR? 'BIN
WAITIN' TOO DAMN
LONG FO' YOU.

MAKES MY MEMORY
DO THE HARLEM
SHUFFLE. EVERY
WHILE IN A
ONCEWHILE.

THE LEADER OF THIS LAND.
HE DID SOMETHING BAD. HE
WENT AWAY.

S...SORRY.

THE NEW LEADER. I
KNOW HIM NOT.



IF I
UNDERSTOOD
THE HUMOR OF
THIS PLANET,
I'M SURE
I'D THINK
THAT FUNNY.

I DON'T KNOW WHO LEADS THIS
COUNTRY, BUT I RECOGNIZE THE
BASSLINE OF SONGS. AND THAT IF
I WAS A NATIVE NEW YORKER I'D
KNOW THE SCORE BY NOW. AND
THAT OOH PILLOW TALK IS THE
NICE TALK. AND THAT IF YOU FIND
LOVE IN A TWO-WAY STREET, YOU
MIGHT LOSE IT ON A ONE-WAY
HIGHWAY.

AND THAT WHAT YOU
SEE IS WHAT YOU
GET.



AND THE ONLY
DEATH BY FIRE...

...THAT'S A
GOOD, GROOVE,
GOOD THING...

...IS WITHIN THE
FLAMES OF THE
DISCO INFERNO.



writer
JAMES
ROBINSON

artist
CRAIG
HAMILTON

inker
RAY
SNYDER

a
tale
of
times
past

letterers
OAKLEY/
N.J.Q.

colorist
GREGORY
WRIGHT

assistant
editor
CHUCK
KIM

editor
ARCHIE
GOODWIN

1976

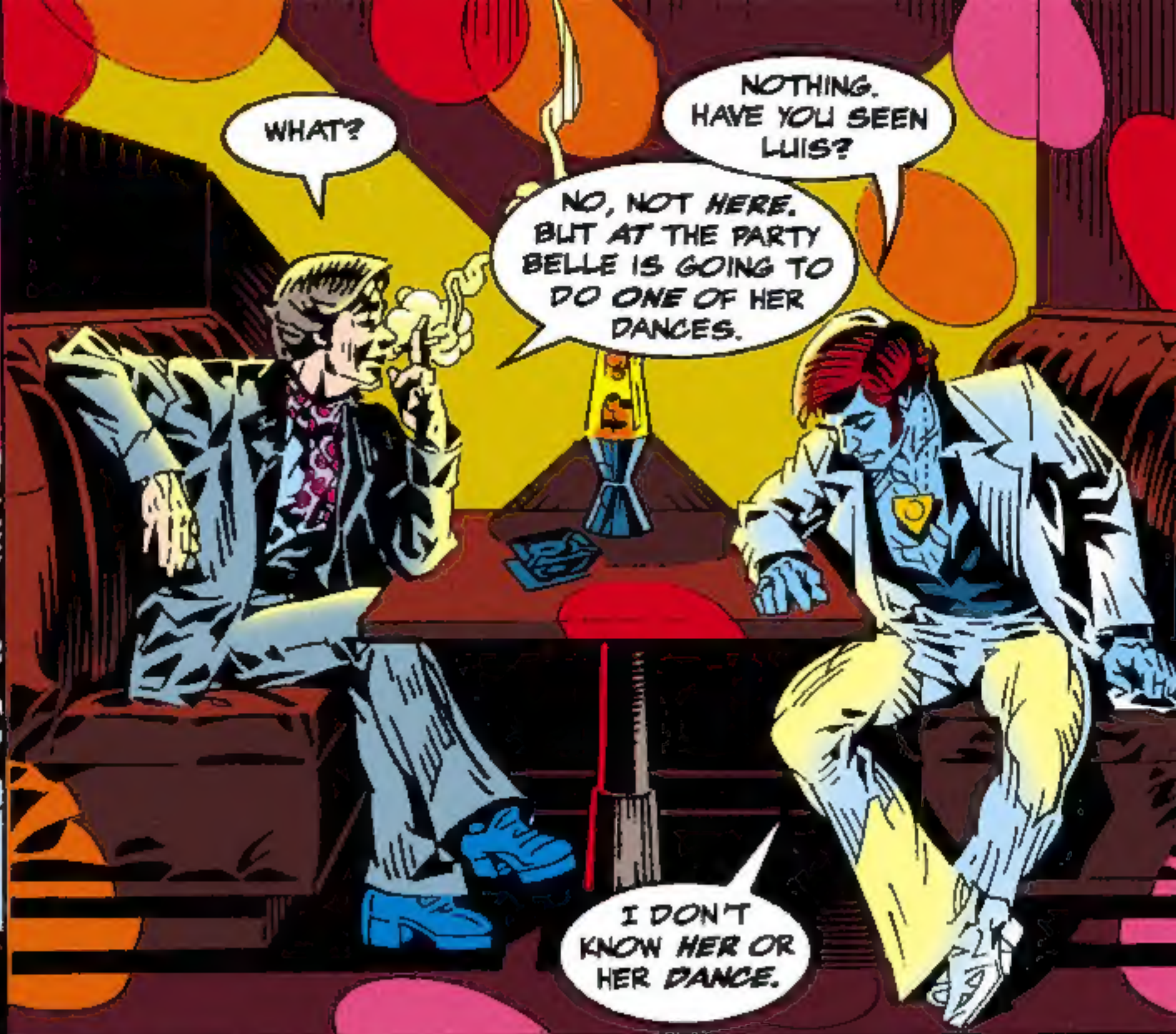
SUPER FREAKS + BACKSTABBERS



I'M COMING DOWN. NEED TO--

CARMEN'S PARTY IS IN AN HOUR. ARE YOU COMING?

DOWN.



WHAT?

NOTHING. HAVE YOU SEEN LUIS?

NO, NOT HERE. BUT AT THE PARTY BELLE IS GOING TO DO ONE OF HER DANCES.

I DON'T KNOW HER OR HER DANCE.



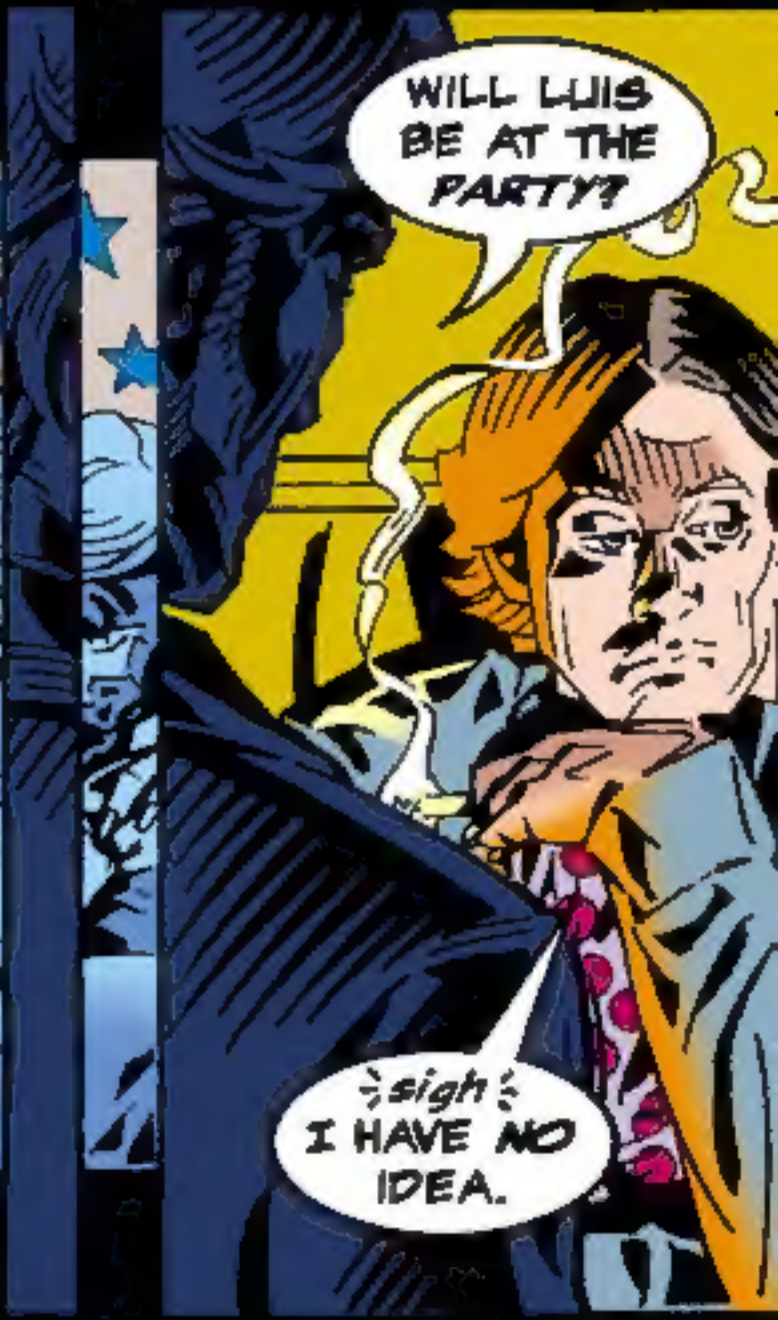
THAT'S NOT WHAT SHE SAYS.



SHE SAID YOU BOTH PRACTICALLY SET FIRE TO HER MATTRESS LAST WEEK.

OH, HER.

SHE DIDN'T TELL ME HER NAME.



WILL LUIS BE AT THE PARTY?

sigh
I HAVE NO IDEA.



OH, LOOK, THERE'S RONA. SHE'S LENDING ME A CHAPEAU FOR THE SOIRÉE.

IS RUTGER GOING?

YES. HE TOLD ME HE'D BE THERE.



THEN I'LL BE THERE.



HELLO, MIKAAL.



YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME, DO YOU?

NO. ALTHOUGH I'M SURE WITH YOUR SKIN TONE I SHOULD.

BUT NO. I DON'T.



WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER? DO YOU KNOW YOUR NAME?

MICHAEL THOMAS.

A MERIDIAN EXTRAPOLATION OF YOUR REALRIGHT NAME, MIKAAL TOMAS. TO BE EXPECTED, I SUPPOSE.

WHAT ELSE DO YOU RECALL?



FRAGMENTS. BATTLES. ANOTHER WORLD. MY OTHER WORLD. IT'S VAGUE.



ALL RIGHT THEN, I'LL TELL YOU.

WHAT?

EVERYTHING!



WE ARE THE LAST, WE TWO. THE LAST OF OUR RACE.

THE LAST.

A YEAR AGO THERE WERE THIRTY-NINE MILLION OF US.



WE ARE FROM A RACE WHERE CONQUEST IS A BIOLOGICAL NEED. WE MUST EAT AND BREATHE. AND WE MUST CONQUER.

EARTH...MERIDIAN WAS TO HAVE BEEN OUR NEXT TARGET. LAST YEAR WE WERE POISED TO INVADE.



"THERE IS A BASE... WAS, RATHER...A BASE ON THE DARK SIDE OF THIS PLANET'S MOON. THAT'S WHERE WE WERE. YOU, ME, AND A HUNDRED OTHERS, WHEN YOU DECIDED TO BETRAY US."



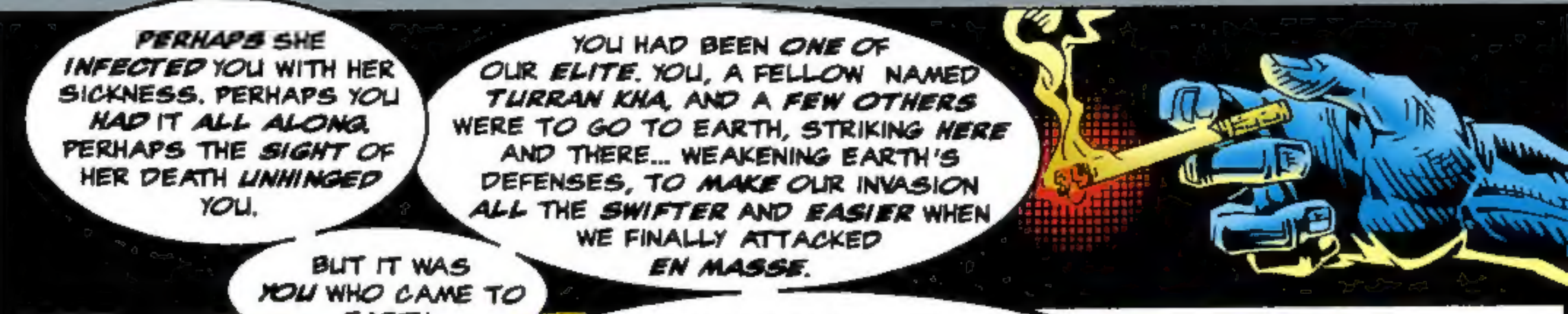
HOW?

"YOU HAD A LOVER. LYISA WAS HER NAME. AND SHE HAD A SICKNESS. THE NEED FOR CONQUEST WASN'T WITHIN HER."

"SHE FELT COMPASSION... PITY...A SENSE OF JUSTICE. YES, A TERRIBLE SICKNESS TO BE SURE."



"SHE INTENDED TO FOREWARN EARTH OF OUR INVASION PLANS. SHE DIED TRYING."



PERHAPS SHE INFECTED YOU WITH HER SICKNESS. PERHAPS YOU HAD IT ALL ALONG. PERHAPS THE SIGHT OF HER DEATH UNHINGED YOU.

YOU HAD BEEN ONE OF OUR ELITE. YOU, A FELLOW NAMED TURRAN KHA, AND A FEW OTHERS WERE TO GO TO EARTH, STRIKING HERE AND THERE... WEAKENING EARTH'S DEFENSES, TO MAKE OUR INVASION ALL THE SWIFTER AND EASIER WHEN WE FINALLY ATTACKED EN MASSE.


BUT IT WAS YOU WHO CAME TO EARTH.



YOU WERE CHOSEN FOR THIS ROLE BECAUSE OF A DEVICE WE CREATED. THE SONIC CRYSTAL, WORKED WITH YOUR PHYSIOLOGY. NOT EVERYONE COULD WIELD THE CRYSTAL, YOU SEE. BARELY ANYONE, IN FACT.

FROM THE POSITION OF CURATE YOU ROSE TO THE HONORED LEVEL OF ELITE WARRIOR.

YOU WERE TRAINED AND SCHOOLED IN THE ART OF THE FIGHT. OH, AND YOU LEARNED IT WELL.



TOO WELL, IN FACT,
FOR WHEN YOU CAME
HERE TO MERIDIAN,
THE TROOPS WE SENT
TO RECLAIM YOU
FARED BADLY.

I'M SURE
THE ADVENTURES
WERE WONDERFUL.
HOW YOU OVERCAME
TURRAN KHA, AND
THE RAHNDOLF
TWIN.

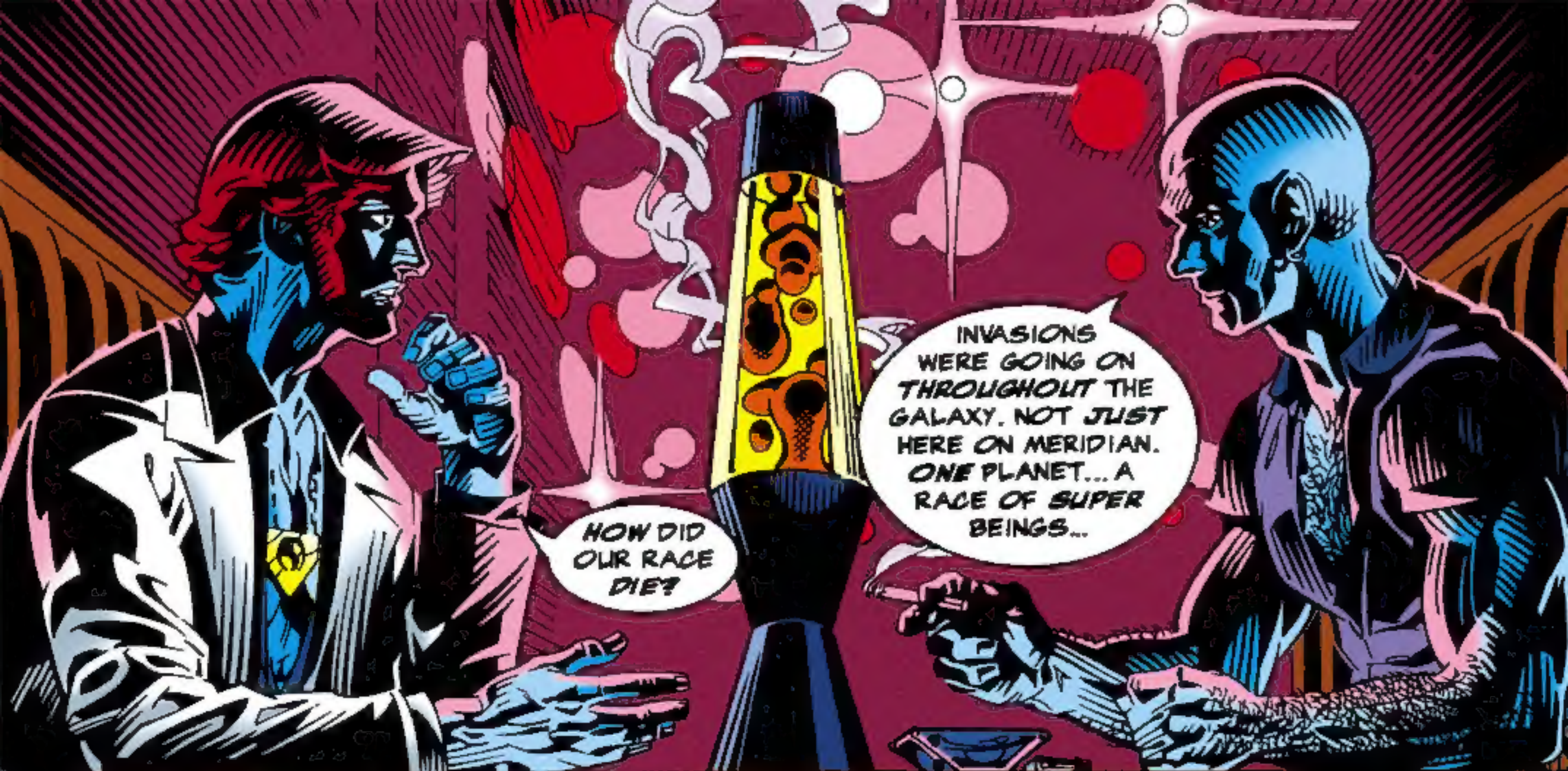
THE MIGHTY ZAG,
TOO, DIED BY YOUR HAND.
FOR SIX MONTHS YOU KEPT
OUR ADVANCE GUARD AT
BAY...PROTECTED AN
ALIEN WORLD... FOR
WHATEVER
REASON.

REPORTS THAT
CAME BACK TO ME ON
THE MOON BASE TALK
OF EXTREMELY SURREAL
ENCOUNTERS WITH THESE
CHAMPIONS AND OTHERS.
YOU MET AN OLD HERO OF
THIS WORLD TOO. AND
A NEW ONE.

WILDTIME IT
SOUNDED.

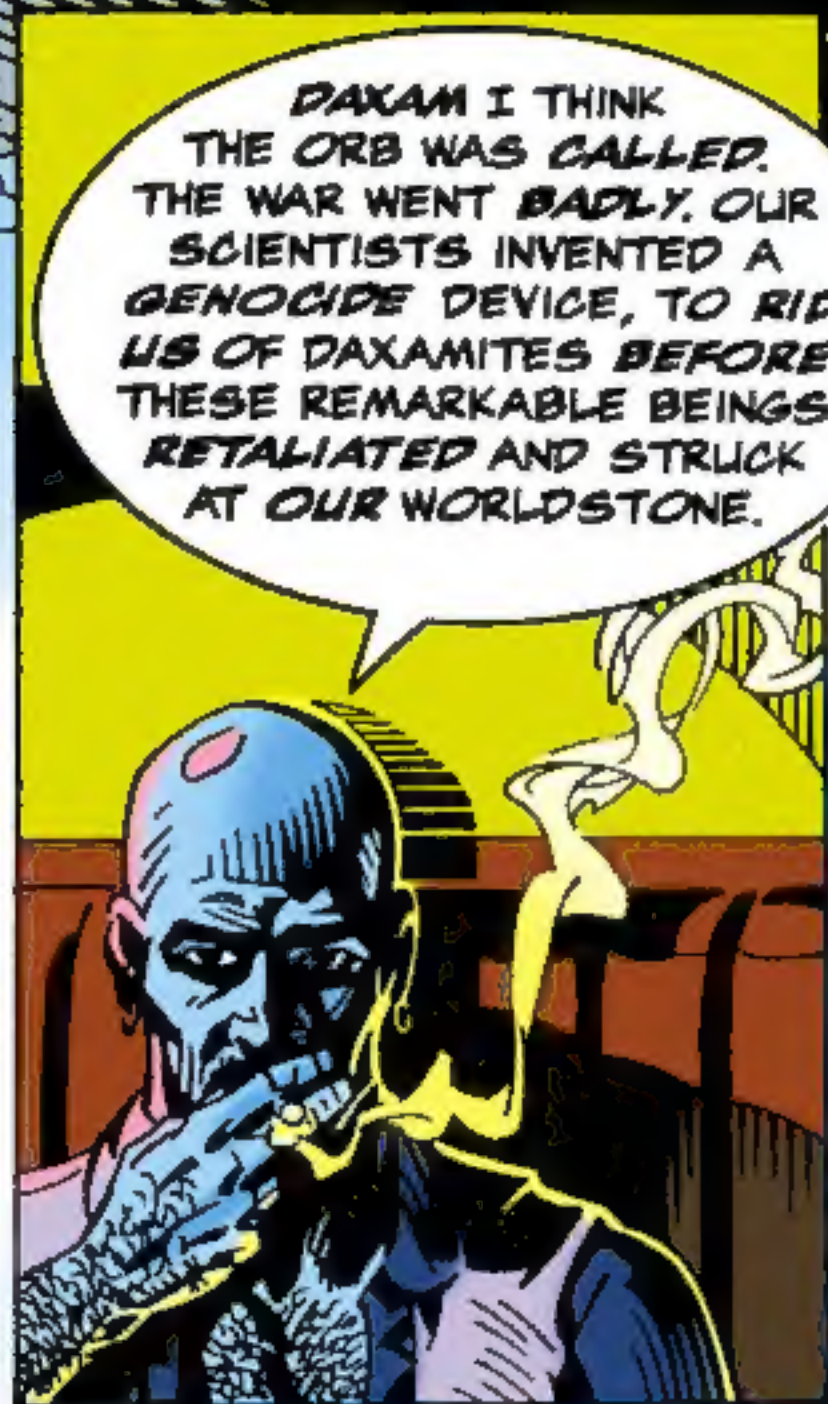
WE WOULD HAVE DEFEATED
YOU...FINALLY...EVENTUALLY. SIX
MONTHS YOU FOUGHT US, BUT BY THE
SEVENTH YOU WOULD HAVE DIED. IF
OUR PEOPLE HAD HAD A
SEVENTH MONTH.

GO
2-5

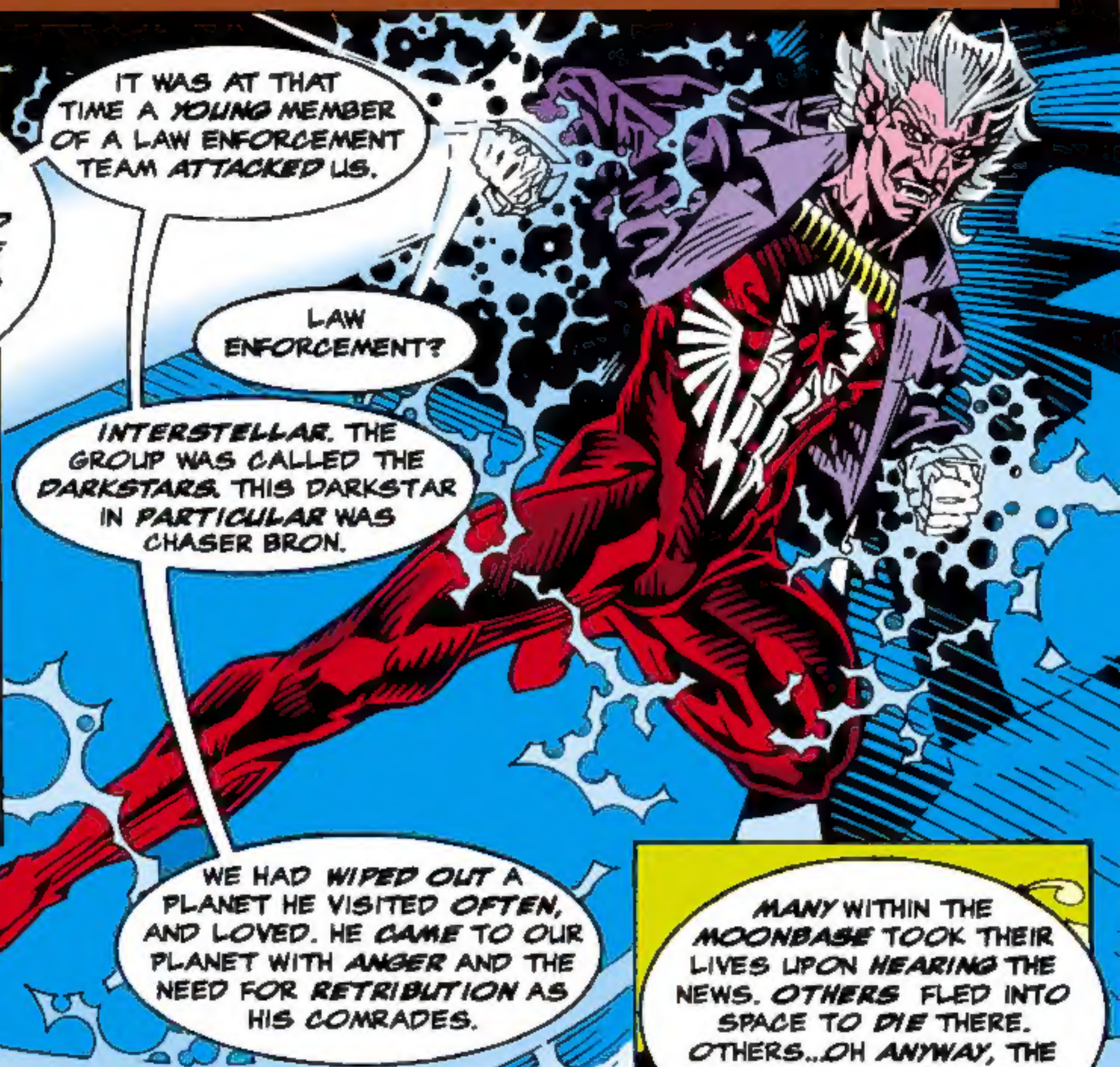


HOW DID
OUR RACE
DIE?

INVASIONS
WERE GOING ON
THROUGHOUT THE
GALAXY. NOT JUST
HERE ON MERIDIAN.
ONE PLANET... A
RACE OF SUPER
BEINGS...



DAXAM I THINK
THE ORB WAS CALLED.
THE WAR WENT BADLY. OUR
SCIENTISTS INVENTED A
GENOCIDE DEVICE, TO RID
US OF DAXAMITES BEFORE
THESE REMARKABLE BEINGS
RETALIATED AND STRUCK
AT OUR WORLDSTONE.



IT WAS AT THAT
TIME A YOUNG MEMBER
OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT
TEAM ATTACKED US.

LAW
ENFORCEMENT?

INTERSTELLAR. THE
GROUP WAS CALLED THE
DARKSTARS. THIS DARKSTAR
IN PARTICULAR WAS
CHASER BRON.

WE HAD WIPED OUT A
PLANET HE VISITED OFTEN,
AND LOVED. HE CAME TO OUR
PLANET WITH ANGER AND THE
NEED FOR RETRIBUTION AS
HIS COMRADES.



ONE THING
LED TO MANY. THE
GENOCIDE DEVICE
WAS EMPLOYED.
CHASER BRON MANAGED
TO DIVERT IT...MAKE
IT MISFIRE...
BACKFIRE.



AND OUR
PLANET WAS
GONE.



MANY WITHIN THE
MOONBASE TOOK THEIR
LIVES UPON HEARING THE
NEWS. OTHERS FLED INTO
SPACE TO DIE THERE.
OTHERS...OH ANYWAY, THE
MOONBASE IS NO MORE.
NEITHER ARE OUR
PEOPLE.



BUT I CAME HERE.
TO FIND YOU AND KILL
YOU. ONE LAST TASK
BEFORE I TOOK OFF
INTO SPACE
MYSELF.

AT LEAST THAT
WAS MY PLAN. THREE
MONTHS AGO.

THREE
MONTHS?



"BUT I
LINGERED.

"NEW YORK IS A
SEDUCTIVE PLACE."

YOU APPEAR
TO ENJOY THE
CHEMICAL
ENHANCEMENTS
THAT ABOUND.

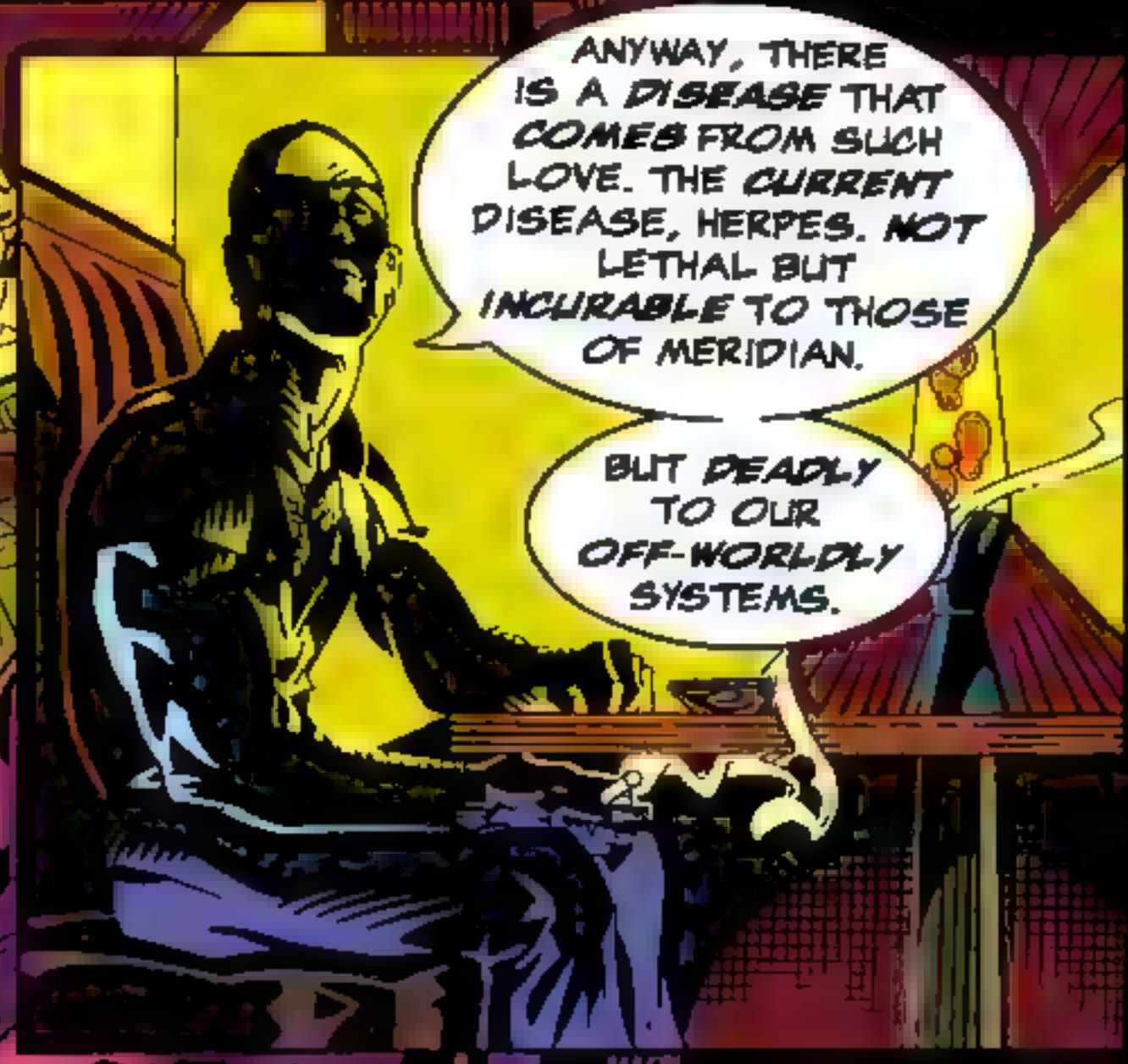
YES. THE DANGERS
EBBED...I DIDN'T KNOW WHY.
THE NEED FOR ME TO PLAY HERO.
AND AS THEY DID, SO THE NEED FOR
THAT RUSH...BATTLE, SO IMPORTANT
TO OUR PEOPLE... BECAME A NEED
FOR ANY RUSH. THE DRUGS OF
EARTH FILLED THAT VOID.



THAT IS YOUR
TEMPTATION.

MINE WAS
THE WOMEN OF
THIS WORLD. I LOVE
THEIR SKIN AND THEIR
SMELL. I LOVE THE
SOUNDS THEY MAKE
WHILE MAKING
LOVE.

SO
UNLIKE THOSE
MADE BY THE SONS
OF OUR RACE.
I LOVE--

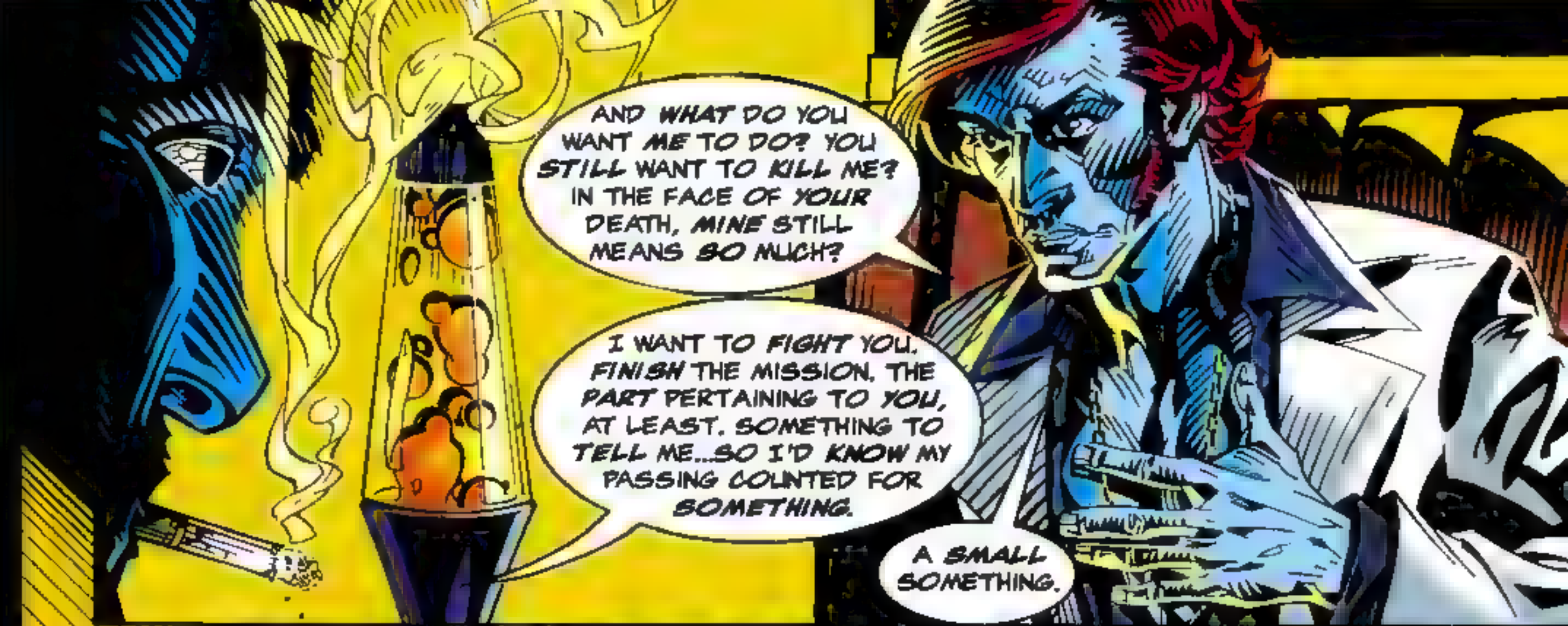


ANYWAY, THERE
IS A DISEASE THAT
COMES FROM SUCH
LOVE. THE CURRENT
DISEASE, HERPES. NOT
LETHAL BUT
INCURABLE TO THOSE
OF MERIDIAN.

BUT DEADLY
TO OUR
OFF-WORLDFY
SYSTEMS.



I'M DYING,
MIKAAL.



AND WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO? YOU STILL WANT TO KILL ME? IN THE FACE OF YOUR DEATH, MINE STILL MEANS SO MUCH?

I WANT TO FIGHT YOU. FINISH THE MISSION. THE PART PERTAINING TO YOU, AT LEAST. SOMETHING TO TELL ME...SO I'D KNOW MY PASSING COUNTED FOR SOMETHING.

A SMALL SOMETHING.



WHEN THAT'S ALL THERE IS, THE SMALL SUDDENLY SEEMS NOT QUITE SO.



HERE, A DEVICE USED FOR SIMULATED FIGHT TRAINING.

I KNOW WHAT IT IS. I THINK I RECALL.



OUR SCIENTISTS LEARNED SOMETHING. USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH SOME OF THE MERIDIAN'S SYNTHETICS, THE EFFECTS ON THOSE SIMULATING THE FIGHT CAN PRODUCE SOME VERY PHYSICAL RESULTS.



YOU'RE SAYING?

WE FIGHT. HERE AND NOW. WHILE THE PEOPLE DANCE. WHILE TEDDY PENDERGRASS SINGS. WE FIGHT AND NO ONE SEES OR HEARS OR KNOWS.

AND THEN AFTERWARDS ONE OF US WILL ARISE AND LEAVE.



AND THE OTHER WILL BE DEAD?

EXACTLY.

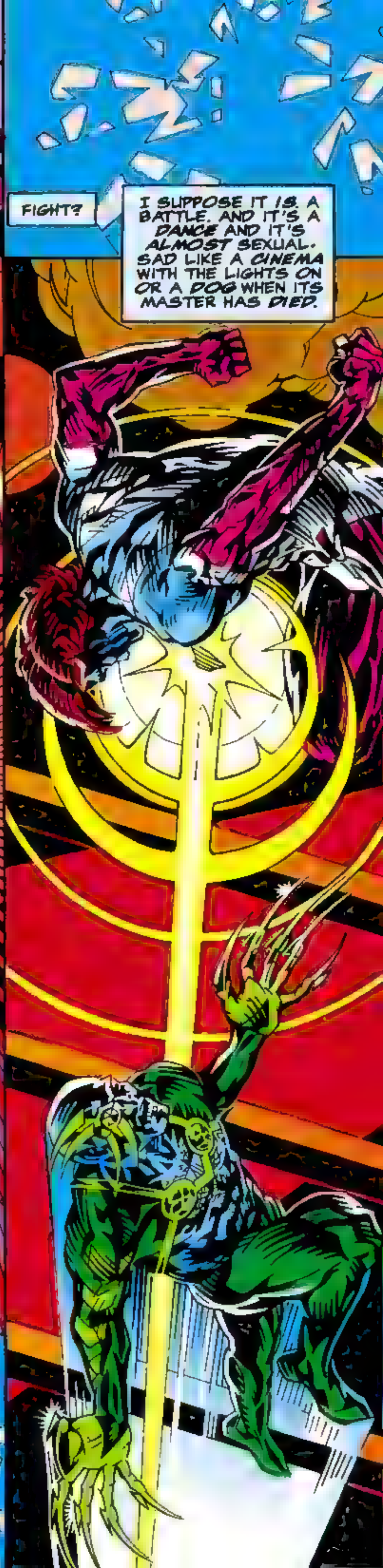
WHAT IF I REFUSE?

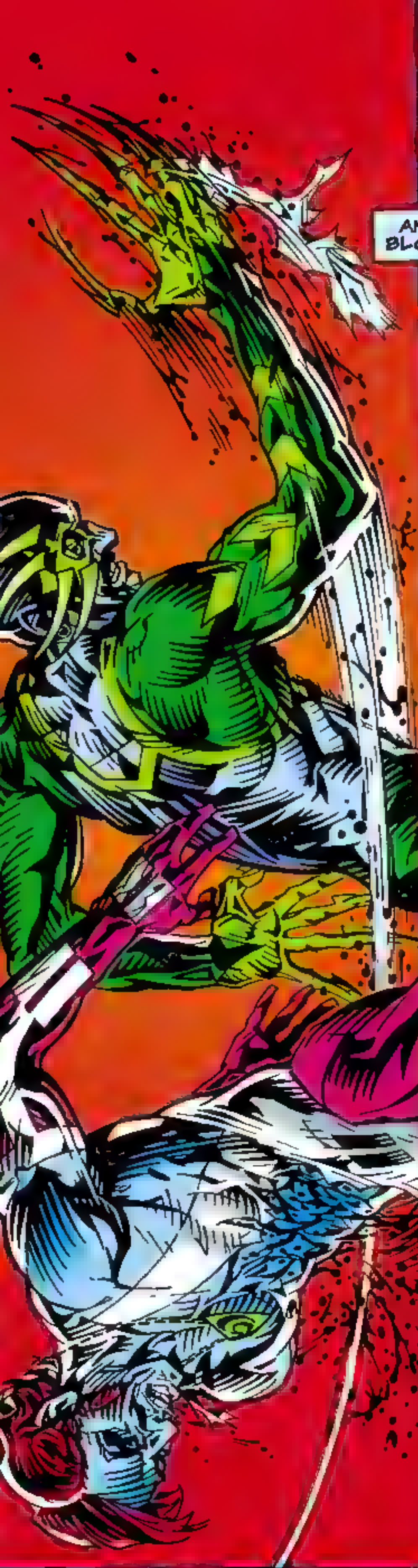




"LET'S BOOGIE!"

90

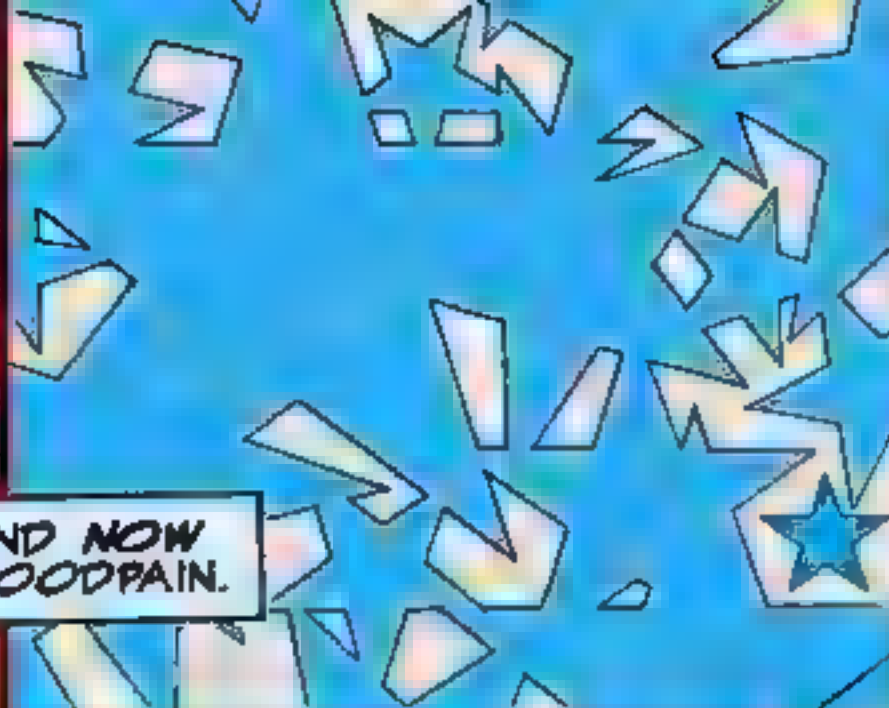




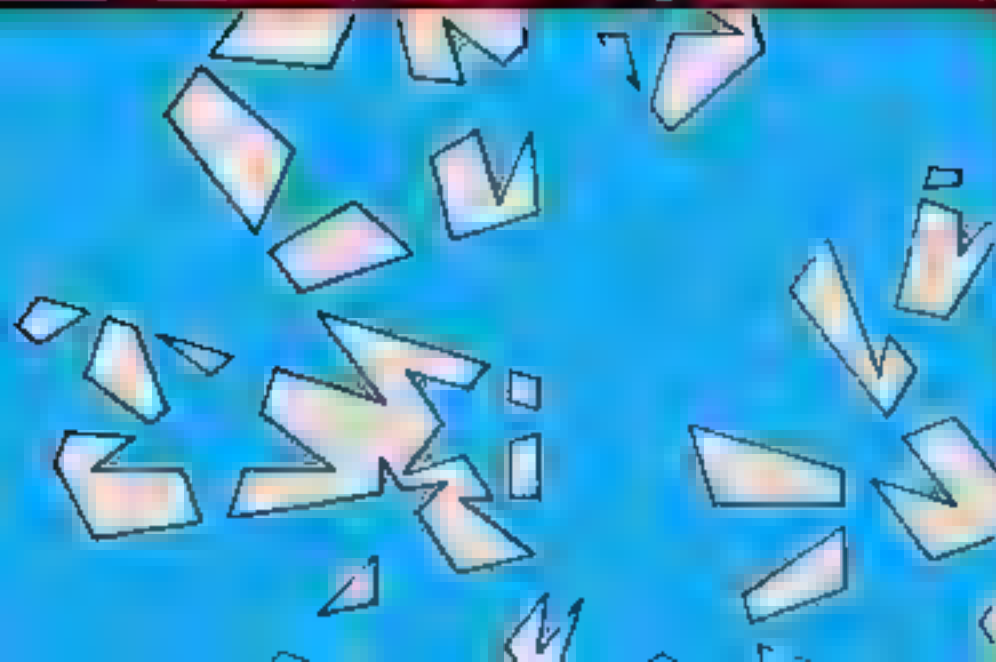
AND NOW
BLOODPAIN.

DELICIOUS.
INTENSE. NOT
LIKE THE STING OF
CUTS AND WOE.

AND THE VINYL
BELOW FLOWS
FROM THIS TO THAT
AT THE DJ'S HANDS.
DONNA SUMMER TO
BARRY WHITE.



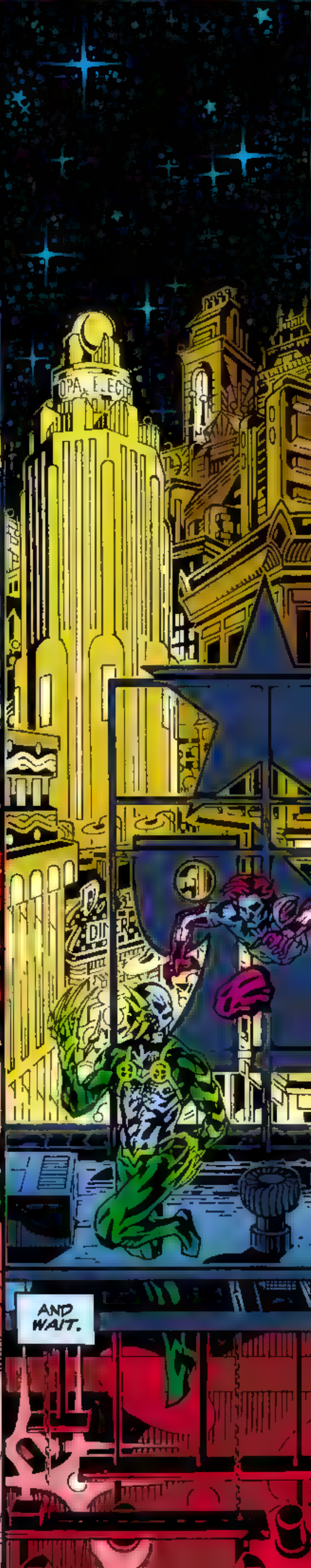
A PAUSE. I PAUSE.
MOVE SIDWAYS
WITH SHARPCRAFT
AND THE PATIENCE
OF FAUST'S DEVIL...





...SWERVE IN TIME
TO THE RHYTHM
GUITAR...

...AND I
RISE.



HE GOES
QUIETLY.





WITH MANY OF
MY COUPLINGS
THE MORNING
BRINGS A SHY
EMBARRASSED
AFTERTASTE.
THEY LEAVE
QUIETLY. OR I

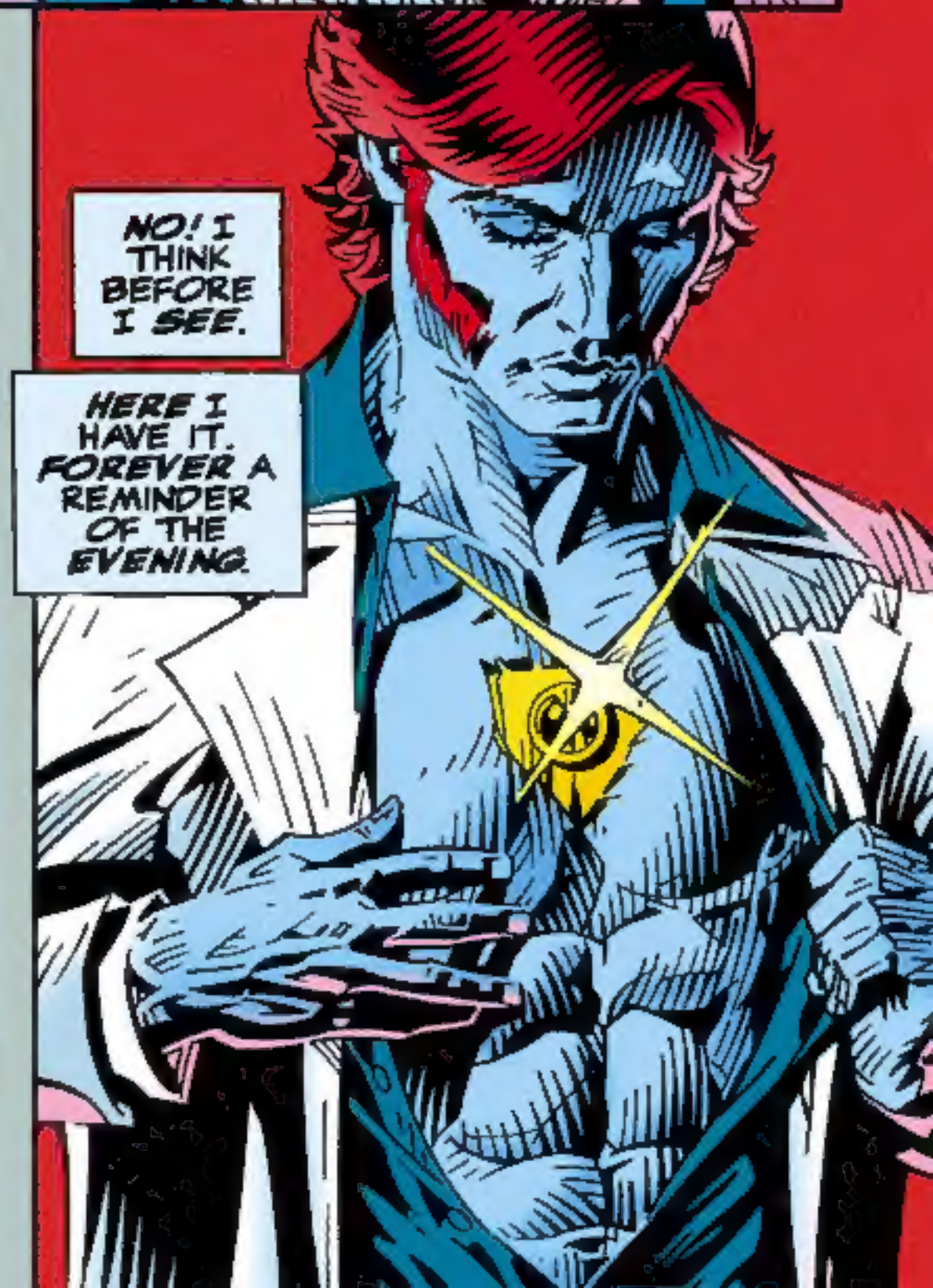
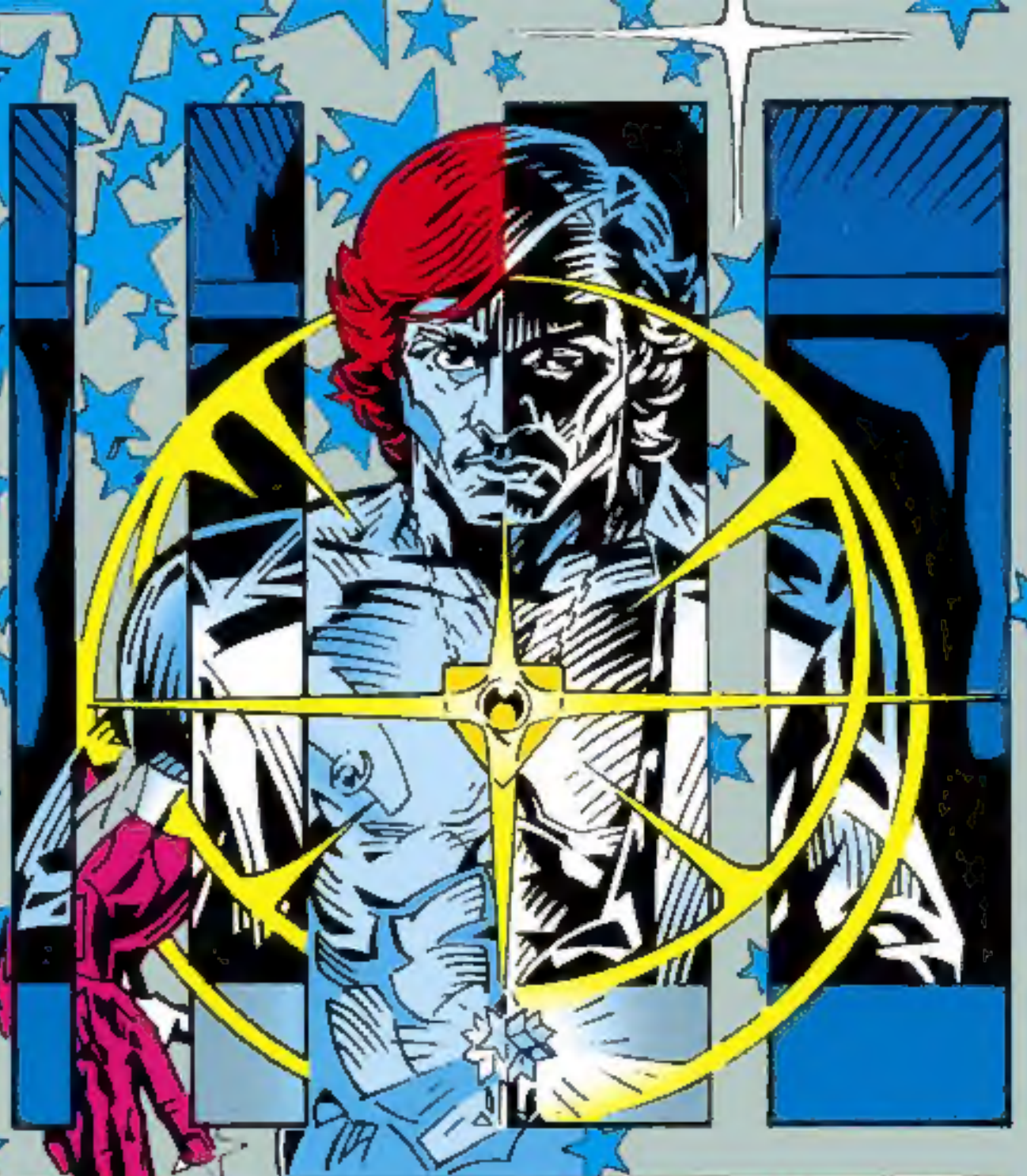
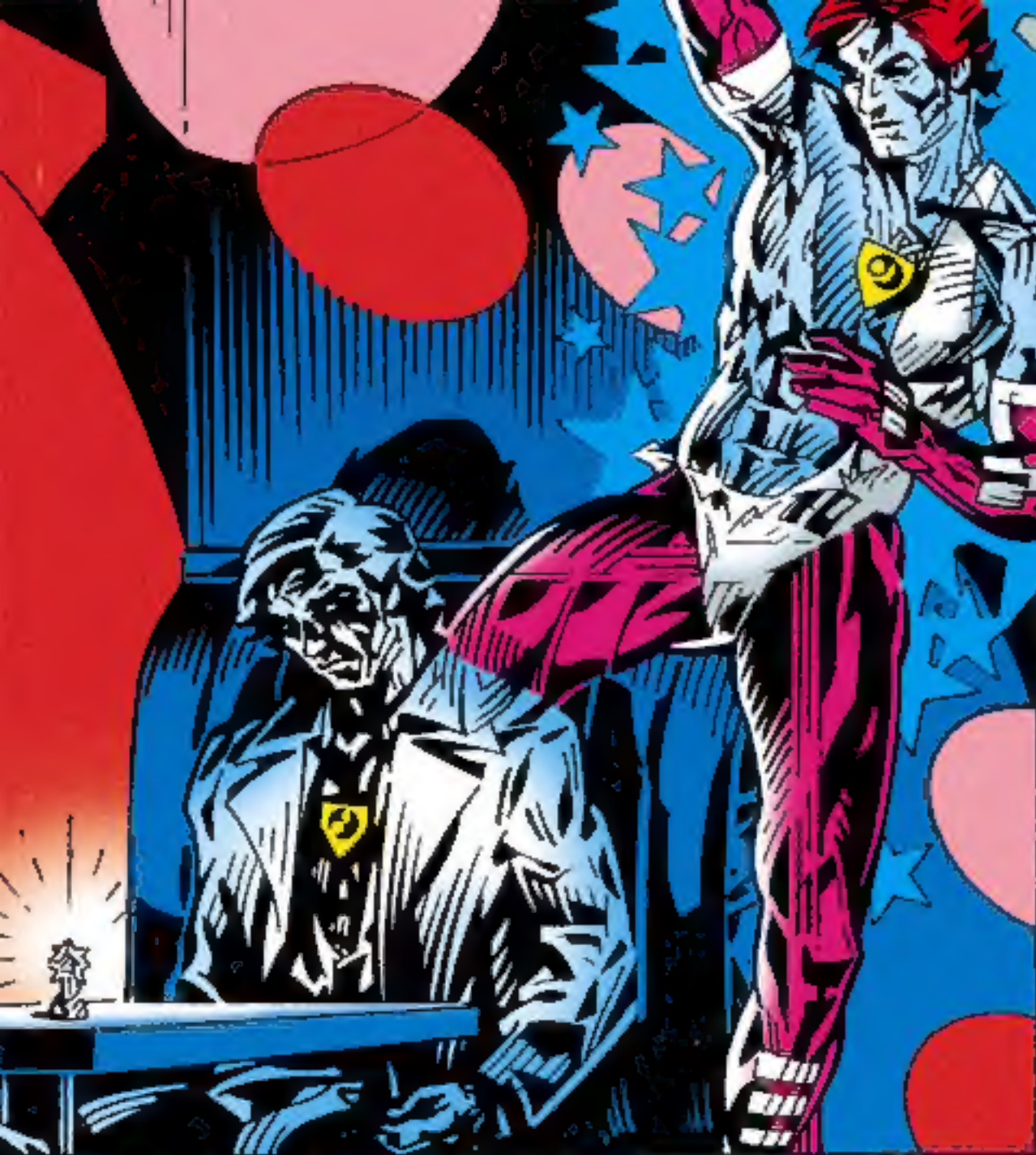
THIS STARK
GAME OF
HEAT AND
SKIN
AGAINST
SKIN IS NO
DIFFERENT.

BUT I AM
SADDER
FOR IT.

I AM
ALONE. I
AM THE
LAST.



MY
PEOPLE'S
LAST.





HE WAS
RIGHT.
KOMAK.
THE RUSH.

OHMM.

THE RUSH.
BATTLE.
FORGOT
HOW SWEET.



MAYBE I...THIS
CITY NEEDS A
CHAMPION.

OR IF IT HAS
ONE I'M SURE
IT COULD DO
WITH TWO.



OPAL CITY IS NOT
LIKE NEW YORK. THE
FANTASTIC NOT
ABUNDANT.

NOT HERE.



HERE I COULD
FIGHT THE BAD.

FIGHT...BATTLE...
AND FEED MY
ADDICTION. YES
I COULD--



OR
PERHAPS
I SHOULD
SIMPLY
SEE
RUTGER.

PAY FOR
IT. EASY
SIMPLE.



AND
SARN
KNOWS
I LIKE
THINGS
SIMP--



The new buds form on
the trees of 1977.

And the blue-skinned lad whom
many knew as Starman
vanished seven months gone.

There was much I would
have asked him, too

If Jay Garrett hadn't been
such an amusement.

Yes. Indeed. Much I
would have asked.

...If I'd had the
chance.

HE VANISHED
IN '76.

AND YET BLISS'
FREAKS CLAIMED
MIKAAL JOINED
THEM IN 1988.

SO WHAT WAS HIS FATE?
WHAT WAS HIS LIFE?

FOR THOSE
TWELVE YEARS.

THE
END.



Deadman Wade

"THIS IS WHAT
AWESOME
LOOKS LIKE".

DCP